

**Presentation:**

**Paper**

**Title:**                   **“Saint Bernard Parish in the Aftermath of Katrina:  
Studies in Long-Term Recovery and Regional  
Collaboration”**

**Presenter:**

**Jack Shaw  
2404 Stratton Drive  
Potomac, MD 20854-6229  
301 / 340 - 1624  
[jshaw@current.net](mailto:jshaw@current.net)**

**Abstract:**

**As Tropical Storm Katrina enveloped the Greater New Orleans Area on August 29, 2005, St. Bernard Parish arguably suffered the greatest material damage, in intensity and extent, of the seven parishes which comprise the Metropolitan Area. It's western precincts immediately adjacent to the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, St. Bernard's experience was less like the havoc of a passing tornado and more like the devastation of the London Blitz; this humanitarian disaster left 97% of all buildings unusable. Katrina inflicted a diaspora upon 67,000 inhabitants whose numbers only recovered to some 4,000 day-time residents by mid-December.**

**The purpose of this presentation is to provide a review of the planning, issues resolution, and activities undertaken by the Parish in attempting to effect its long-term recovery. This process necessarily proceeded in the face of dire need and in the context of waiting upon and reaching accommodation with the various governmental agencies which held region-wide responsibilities: Federal and State Government, FEMA, and the Louisiana Recovery Authority.**

**This paper seeks to relate to the Conference Theme in the sense that the history of St. Bernard provided the context in which it had to respond to the change inflicted by Katrina, and its success in effecting long-term recovery lay in meeting the challenges and opportunities necessarily inherent in the regional nature of its problems.**

**Research for this paper will draw upon the personal involvement of the presenter, the public records of official bodies, and the empirical tracking programs of such organizations as the Brookings Institution, Federal and state agencies, and the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center.**

**The events and activities considered here hopefully link to a larger picture given that all communities face the potential of disaster at some time in the future.**

**Summary:**

**In consequence of Katrina, St. Bernard Parish arguably suffered the greatest material damage, in intensity and extent, of the seven Parishes**

**which comprise the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan Area. The purpose of this presentation is to provide a review of St. Bernard's efforts to effect its long-term recovery in the context of dealing with regional issues and problems, and securing the necessary material assistance which involved regional collaboration as well.**

**Audio Visual Needs:** LCD Projector for Power Point together with audio for presentation of a brief video.